

**Andrew Jackson, Jr. to Charles Jared Ingersoll,  
February 26, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew  
Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>TO CHARLES J. INGERSOLL.

Hermitage, February 26, 1844.

D&apos;r Sir, I am in possession of your favor of the 15th inst. informing me of the passage of the bill restoring the fine imposed on me by Judge Hall at New Orleans, and altho&apos; greatly debilitated I cannot forego the attempt to reply to it.

Your friendly agency, Sir, in originating that bill and explaining to Congress and the country the injustice which had been done me by the imposition of the fine, will always be remembered by me with gratitude. Some of the members of congress, and particularly Mr. Foster one of the Senators from this state, affect to consider that in bowing to the majesty of the law when the fine was imposed I assented to the justice of the proceedings, and in fact acknowledged that I was wrong in declaring martial law. Certainly such an inference is not justified by any of the legal proceedings, or by any declaration of mine then or since. I have always maintained and Mr. Foster well knew it that without the declaration of martial law New Orleans could not have been saved, and the proof of this was so abundant and conclusive that it is impossible to reconcile the harsh measure of the judge in assessing the fine with a proper sense of the duties appertaining to his character either as a Judge or patriot. But it is not my wish to find fault with others for their peculiar notions about the character of Judge Hall or my own. My intention only is to thank you again for the kindness and zeal with which you have performed the task of removing the blot which that fine cast upon my fame. Certainly no one can say that you were actuated by any motive but that 0291 267 which sprung from the consciousness that injustice had been done me. There

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was never any correspondence between us on the subject until the receipt of the letter announcing the passage of the bill.

Accept I pray you my best wishes for your health and happiness, and be assured that it will always give me pleasure to hear from you.

yrs.